



California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Coast Region



Linda S. Adams.
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, California 93401-7906
(805) 549-3147 • Fax (805) 543-0397
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast>

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

December 5, 2008

Dear Interested Party:

Notice of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Scoping Meeting for the Development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for Pesticides/Priority Organics in the Lower Salinas Valley and Elkhorn Slough Watershed Waters Including, Elkhorn Slough, Moro Cojo Slough, Moss Landing Harbor, Old Salinas River Estuary, Tembladero Slough, Salinas Reclamation Canal, Espinosa Slough, Salinas River Lagoon (North), Salinas River, and Blanco Drain, Quail Creek and Chualar Creek, in Monterey County, California

Date: January 7, 2009

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Address: Agricultural Center Conference Room, 1432 Abbott Street, Salinas, CA 93901. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Larry Harlan at (805) 594-6195 at least 5 working days prior to the meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

PURPOSE

Central Coast Water Board staff (Water Board staff) will hold a CEQA scoping meeting to discuss the development of TMDLs and Implementation Plans for the control of discharges of pesticides and priority organic compounds to the waters referenced above (Project).

The impairments are due to elevated pesticides (for specific pollutants such as chlorpyrifos, diazinon, DDT, dieldrin, toxaphene, and their effects) and priority organic compounds (PCB and its effects).

The TMDLs will allocate pollutant loading capacities and establish an implementation plan to control discharges of these pollutants so that receiving waters will attain applicable water quality standards for the protection of human health and wildlife.

These waters were listed or are proposed to be listed as impaired on the State's "List of Water Quality Limited Segments" pursuant to Clean Water Act Section 303(d). The Clean Water Act requires the State to develop TMDLs for waters on the list. State law requires development of implementation plans to achieve the TMDLs. Staff is conducting investigations on the nature and causes of impairments, the legal standards

California Environmental Protection Agency



Recycled Paper

that must be met in these waters, and strategies to reduce the amount of pollutants discharged to these waters in order to achieve the associated water quality standards. The Project includes proposals to add TMDLs and associated implementation plans to control discharges. Water Board staff anticipates the pesticide/priority organic TMDLs will be proposed for Water Board adoption at a public meeting in 2009. The TMDLs or implementation plans may require the installation of pollution control equipment or establish a performance standard or treatment requirement.

PUBLIC WORKSHOP AND CEQA SCOPING MEETING CONDUCT AND SCHEDULE

This workshop and meeting will provide participants with: 1) a summary of the pesticides/priority organic TMDL Project under development, 2) an opportunity to comment on the Project, and 3) an opportunity to comment on the appropriate scope and content of the environmental analysis and environmental documentation for the Project to be prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) and the Water Board's certified regulatory program for basin planning (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15251, subdivision (g); and Title 23, Section 3775 et seq).

Interested persons are specifically requested to provide information about:

- How they or responsible parties would foreseeably comply with the TMDL;
- The reasonably foreseeable significant environmental impacts associated with those means of compliance;
- Specific evidence supporting that such impacts are reasonably foreseeable, and describing the magnitude (how significant) of the impacts;
- Reasonable alternative means of compliance that would have less significant adverse environmental impacts;
- Reasonable mitigation measures that would minimize any unavoidable significant adverse environmental impacts associated with the means of compliance;
- Project alternatives.

Water Board staff identified examples of foreseeable methods of compliance to reduce pollutant discharges and in-stream pollutant concentrations. These are as follows:

- Management of pesticide use and storage
- Irrigation management
- Waste management
- Road and street maintenance (sweeping)
- Identify and eliminate Illicit discharges to storm drain systems
- Installation of vegetated swales, buffer strips, natural treatment systems, silt fences, and straw bales
- Installation of stormdrain filters, inlet protection, detention basins, retention ponds, infiltration systems, diversion systems
- Dredging
- Public education and outreach

At previous CEQA meetings for other Central Coast TMDL projects, stakeholders identified Project alternatives that including the following:

1. No Action (No TMDL)
2. Delay TMDL
3. TMDL with different targets
4. Alternative waste load and load allocations:
 - a. Other wasteload and load allocations (one responsible party)
 - b. Relative load allocations (load-based contributions)
 - c. Equal load allocations (same load assigned to each responsible party)
 - d. Allocations as equal concentrations
 - e. Allocations geographically (by subwatershed)
 - f. Allocations based on feasibility
 - g. Allocations using water quality trading
5. Proposed Project (TMDL)

Water Board staff will consider the issues raised and the comments provided by stakeholders on the appropriate scope and content of the environmental documentation and on the Project. These considerations will be reflected in the final reports that will be presented to the Water Board.

A Project Summary will be made available at the Water Board website at: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/> by December 8, 2008. The Project Summary is also available by request at the office of the Central Coast Water Board.

Water Board staff will accept verbal comments at the Public Workshop and written comments received by February 7, 2009. Water Board staff will not prepare written responses to verbal comments received at this meeting or written comments received by February 7, 2009. However, Water Board staff will address all significant environmental points in the final reports that will be provided to the Water Board at the hearing planned for 2009.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions regarding CEQA Scoping or the Project should be directed to Larry Harlan (805) 594-6195 or lhlarlan@waterboards.ca.gov. Please mail written comments to Larry Harlan at 895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7906.

Sincerely,


for Roger W. Briggs
Executive Officer

cc: Interested Parties list for Salinas Valley and Elkhorn Slough Pesticides/Priority Organics TMDLs

File: Lower Salinas Valley and Elkhorn Slough Pesticides/Priority Organics TMDLs

Agenda

Public Workshop for Pesticides and Priority Organics Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)

and

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Scoping Meeting for Pesticides and Priority Organics Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)

Date: January 7th, 2009

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Public Workshop

10:00 - 10:10: Introductions (Larry Harlan)

1) Purpose / Structure of Meeting and Comments

- a) Goals
- b) Staff Response to Comments
- c) Methods of Recording Comments

10:10 - 10:45: TMDL Project Update (Summary, Comments and Questions, Next Steps)

CEQA Scoping Meeting

10:45 - 12:00: CEQA Scoping for TMDL Project

- a) Explanation of Water Board's CEQA Process
- b) CEQA Scoping
 - 1. Identify Implementation and Compliance Alternatives
 - 2. Identify Environmental Impacts of Implementation and Compliance Alternatives
 - 3. Identify Cumulative Impacts
 - 4. Identify Allocation Alternatives
- c) CEQA Comments and Questions

